

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME POETRY & ART PROJECT

Inspired by: Maya Angelou's *Life Doesn't Frighten Me*

INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- Copy of Poem (Provided Below)
- Pencil
- Paper (any size, color, shape)
- Coloring materials of your choice; colored pencils, watercolors, crayons, markers etc.

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The American poet Maya Angelou's poem *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* is all about courage and being brave in scary situations. Read the poem and discuss it to get inspired to draw your own special good luck charm.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- In Maya Angelou's poem there is a line that reads "I've got a magic charm That I keep up my sleeve,"
- What special powers does that give the narrator of the poem?
- What makes you feel brave?
- Where do you think bravery comes from?
- Do you have a good luck charm or something that brings you good luck?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Read the poem *Life Doesn't Frighten Me* by Maya Angelou (provided below)

Step 2:

- Discuss and consider what you have read, using the prompt questions above.

Step 3:

- **Choice 1:** Considering the special good luck charm that you have, create a zoomed in, up close, drawing of your good luck charm. Make it as big as your paper and fill it from edge to edge, to symbolize how important it is.
- Draw your charm image with pencil and then color it in with your coloring materials you have on hand.
- **Choice 2:** Design your own good luck charm.
 - What shape is it?
 - Is it something you wear like a bracelet?
 - Maybe it's in the shape of a badge like a police officer or firefighter wears.
 - What color is it?
 - Will it be bright, clashing colors or your favorite colors?
 - Do you want to include an image of a strong, powerful animal?
 - *There is no wrong because it comes from you and it's about what makes you feel brave!*

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- Draw your imagined charm image with pencil and then color it in with your coloring materials you have on hand

Step 4:

- Be creative and have FUN!
- Don't forget to sign and date your finished artwork!

ART PROJECT EXAMPLE: *"My key is my Lucky Charm"*



Life Doesn't Frighten Me

Poem by Maya Angelou

Shadows on the wall
Noises down the hall
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Bad dogs barking loud
Big Ghosts in a cloud
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all

Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all

LESSON PLAN

I go boo
Make them shoo
I make fun
Away they run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
They go wild
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Tough guys fight
All alone at night
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all

That new classroom where
Boys all pull my hair
(Kissy little girls with their hair in curls)
They don't frighten me at all

Don't show frogs and snakes
And listen for my scream,
If I'm afraid at all
It's only in my dreams

I've got a magic charm
That I keep up my sleeve,
I can walk the ocean floor
And never have to breathe

Life doesn't frighten me at all
Not at all
Not at all